MARVEL
KNIGHTS
#4
THE SENTRY

HOW CAN I ANSWER A QUESTION IF I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT *IS*?
AND HERE, WE HAVE OUR *CONUNDRUM*, REED RICHARDS. IF I *PRESENT* TO YOU THE QUESTION AT HAND, I GUARANTEE YOU'LL WISH I HAD *NOT*.
BUT YOU ARE A BRILLIANT MAN: DRAWN TOWARDS ESOTERICA LIKE A MOTH TO A FLAME. A MAN OF REASON AND SCIENCE COMPELLED TO FIND HIS OWN SOLUTIONS AND MAKE HIS OWN ASSESSMENTS.
I DON'T SEE WHERE THIS RIDDLE IS *TAKING* US. THIS... *SENTRY* -- YOU'VE TOLD ME YOURSELF THAT HE EXISTS. I DON'T REMEMBER THE MAN... BUT I CAN'T SHAKE THE FEELING THAT I *SHOULD*.
AND NOW THAT I *KNOW* HE EXISTS, YOU WANT ME TO *FORGET* HIM. BUT YOU CAN'T -- OR WON'T -- EXPLAIN *WHY*. IF YOU WERE IN MY POSITION, STEPHEN, WOULD YOU BE ABLE TO LEAVE IT AT THAT?
NO... NO, I WOULD *NOT*.
THEN -- IF YOU WILL *PERMIT* ME, I WOULD LIKE TO SHOW YOU AN EVENT FROM OUR SHARED PAST.

BEHOLD: THIS IS HOW IT WAS... AND HOW IT YET MAY BE...

I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH LONGER WE HAVE, STEPHEN -- THIS MAY BE OUR ONLY CHANCE! I PRAY TO GOD THAT IT WORKS... IT HAS TO. FOR THE SAKE OF US ALL --
AGREED, RICHARDS. TO FAIL IN THIS ENDEAVOR WOULD BE TO INVITE A CATASTROPHE BEYOND IMAGINATION.

OY, STRETCH! WE GOT THIS DOOHICKEY OF YOURS CALIBRATED AN' HOLDIN' STEADY. I'M TELLIN' YOU, IF YOU EVER PUT THAT OL' NOGGIN OF YOURS ON THE LINE, THIS'D BETTER BE THE TIME.
OH, PLEASE WORK. PLEASE WORK...

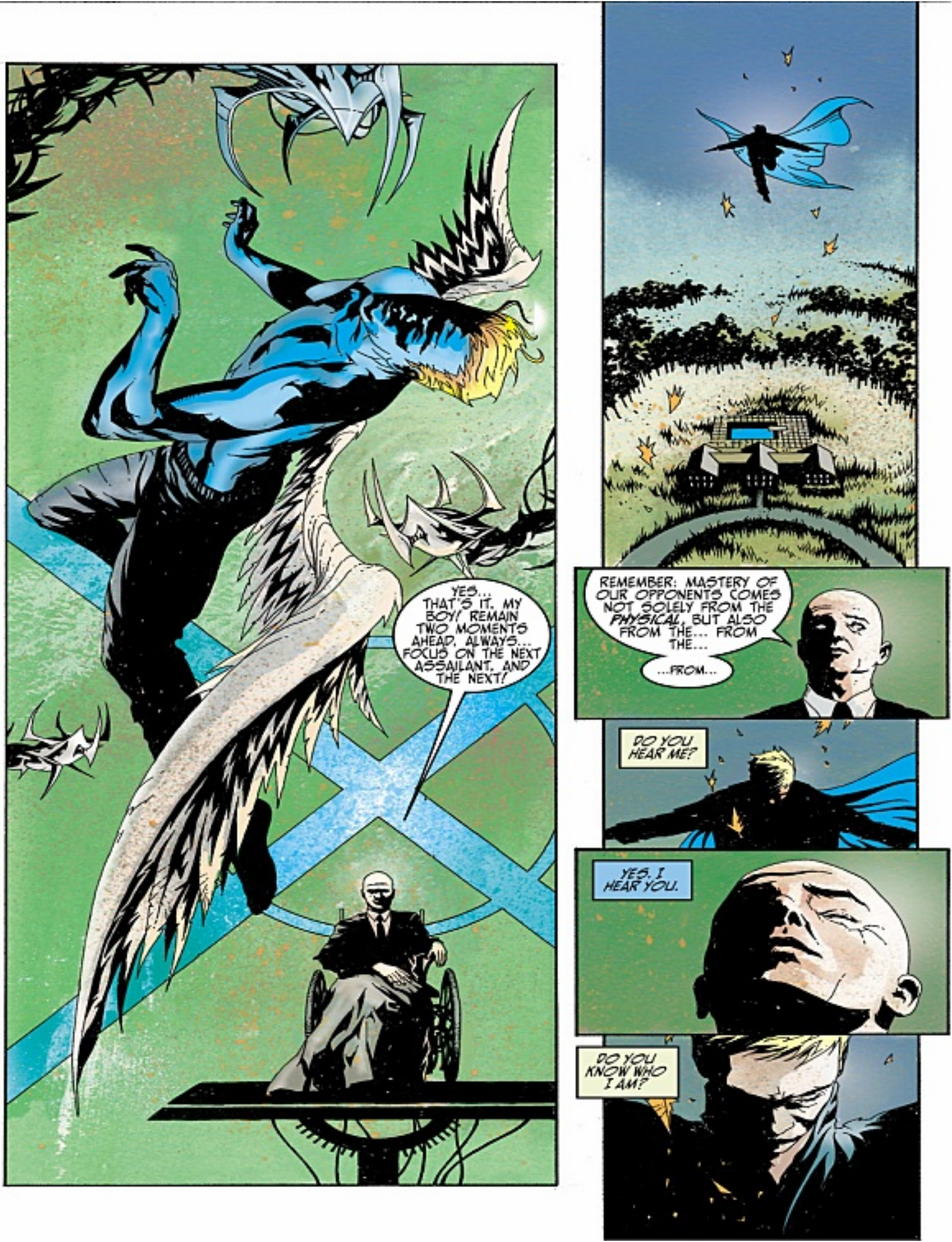
IT'S NOW OR NEVER, STEPHEN... I'M SO EXHAUSTED I CAN BARELY THINK.
BEFORE I ACTIVATE THE MACHINE... I WANT YOU TO MAKE ME A PROMISE --
I WILL DO AS I CAN. WHAT IS IT?

THE SENTRY. IF EVER WE REMEMBER HIM... IN THE NAME OF ALL HUMANITY, PROMISE ME YOU'LL DO WHATEVER YOU CAN TO MAKE US FORGET.

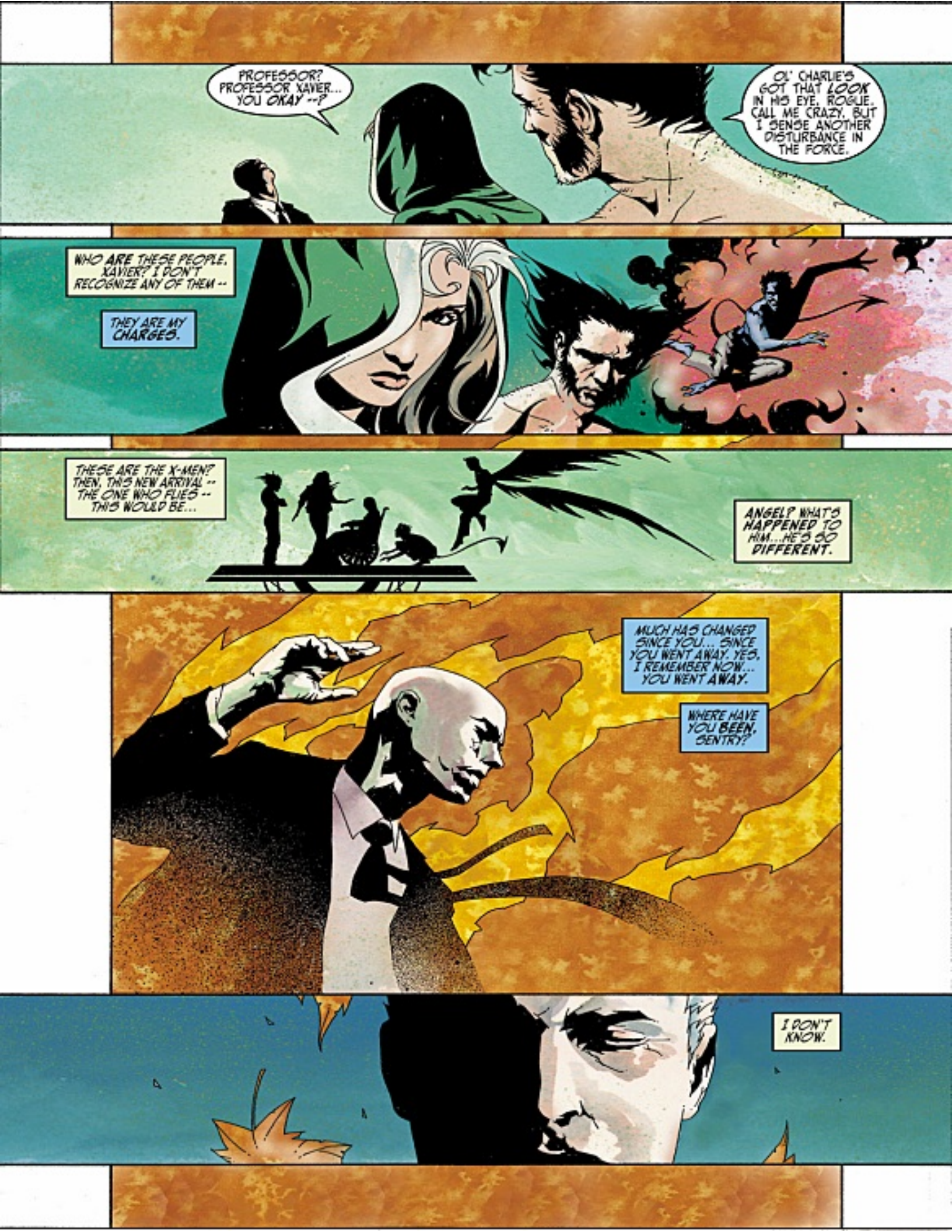
IT WAS YOU. YOU DESTROYED THE VCR TAPE I MADE... BECAUSE I ASKED YOU TO? BECAUSE IT WOULD HAVE TOLD ME ABOUT THE SENTRY?
YES.
WHICH BRINGS US BACK TO OUR CONUNDRUM: "HOW CAN I ANSWER A QUESTION," YOU SAID, "IF I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS?"

PAUL JENKINS STORY
JAE LEE ART
JOSE VILLARRUBIA COLORS
RS&COMICRAFT'S WES ABBOTT LETTERS
KELLY LAMY ASSISTANT EDITOR
NANCI DAKESIAN EDITOR
JOE QUESADA EDITOR IN CHIEF

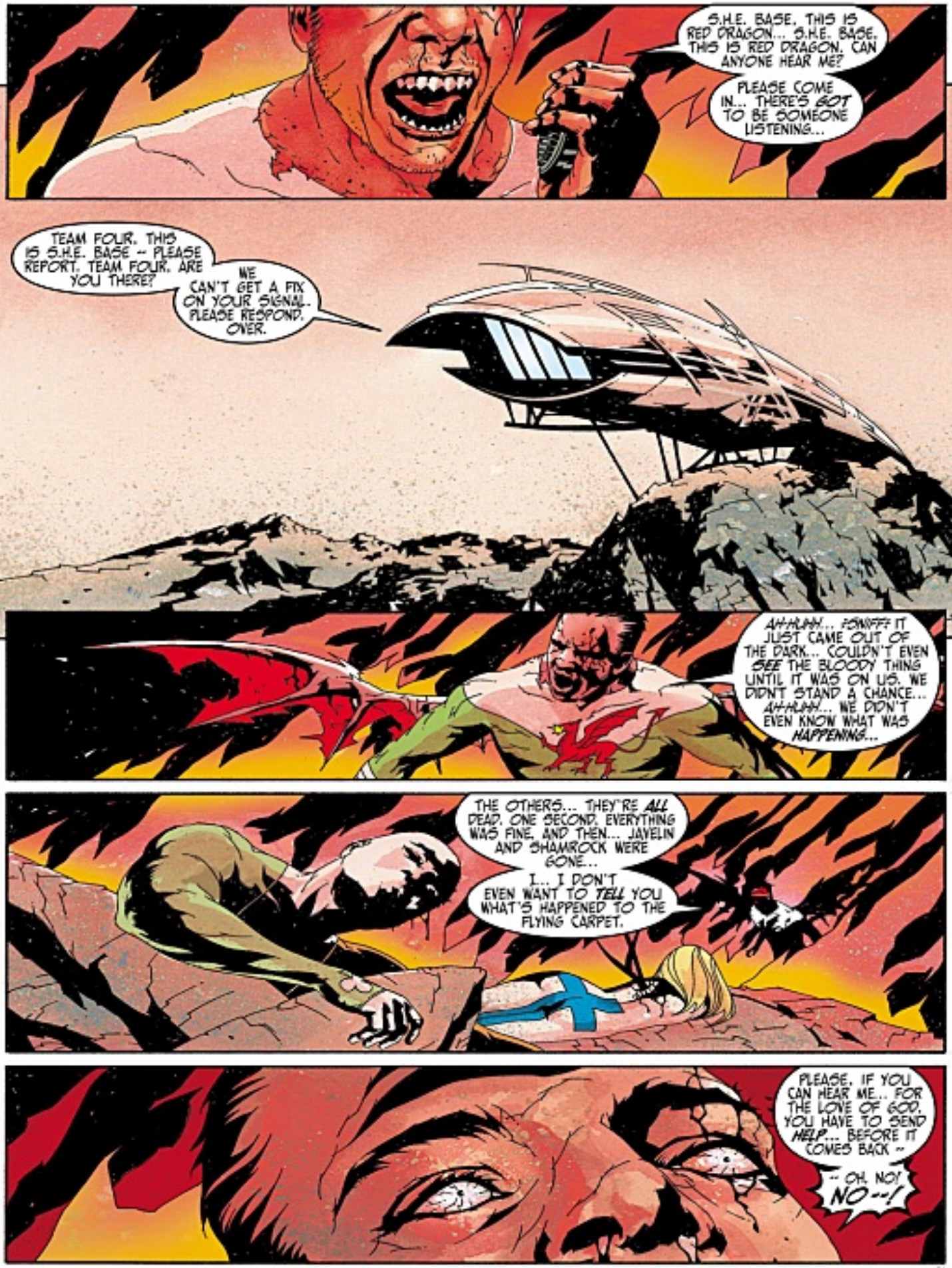
THE SENTRY
ACT 4:
THE CONSPIRACY
A STAN LEE PRESENTATION
AND NOW, YOU KNOW THE QUESTION.
THE QUESTION IS: CAN YOU TAKE YOUR OWN ADVICE?

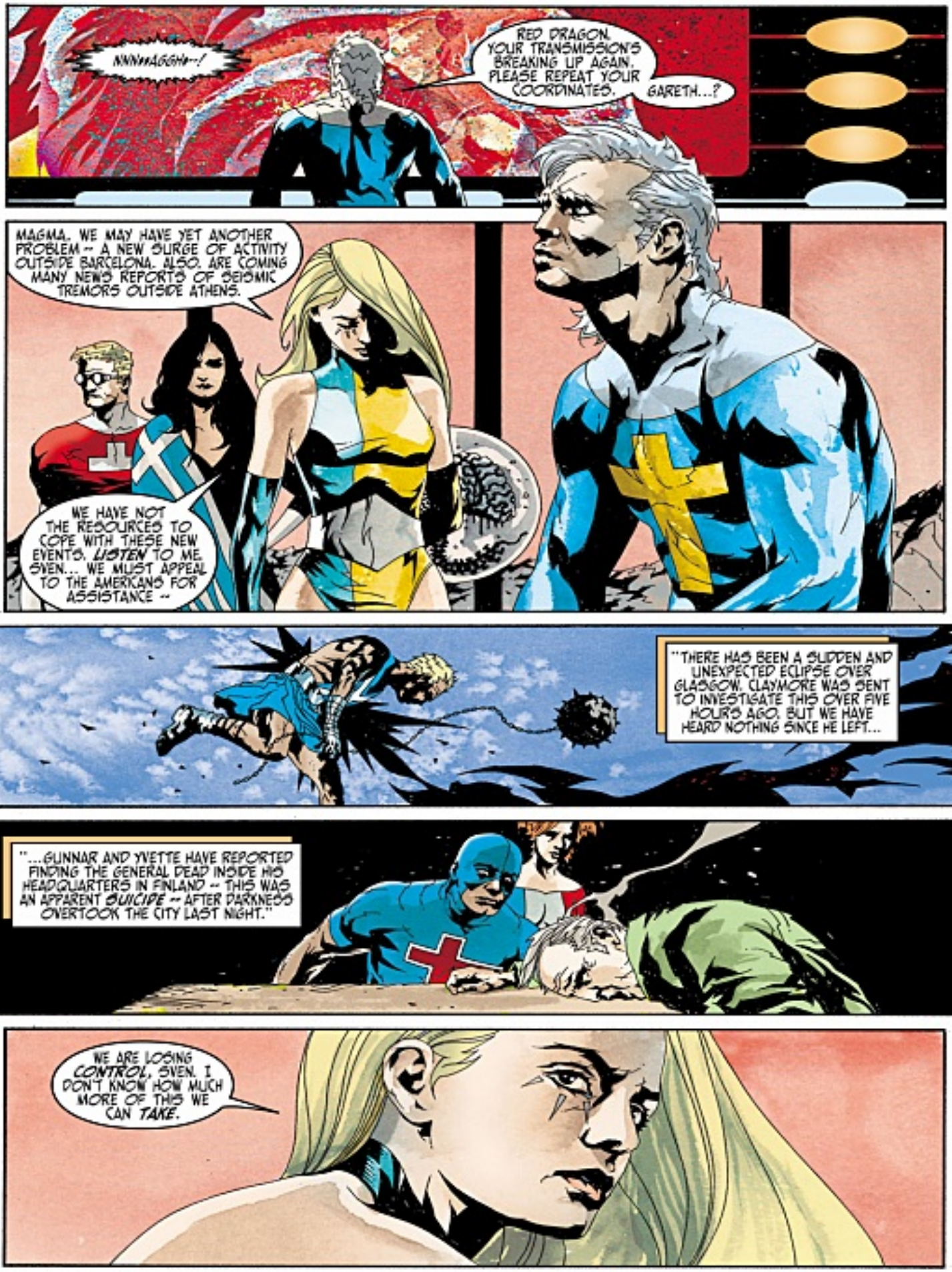

YES... THAT'S IT. MY BOY! REMAIN TWO MOMENTS AHEAD. ALWAYS... FOCUS ON THE NEXT ASSAILANT. AND THE NEXT!
REMEMBER: MASTERY OF OUR OPPONENTS COMES NOT SOLELY FROM THE PHYSICAL, BUT ALSO FROM THE... FROM THE...
...FROM...
DO YOU HEAR ME?
YES. I HEAR YOU.
DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?

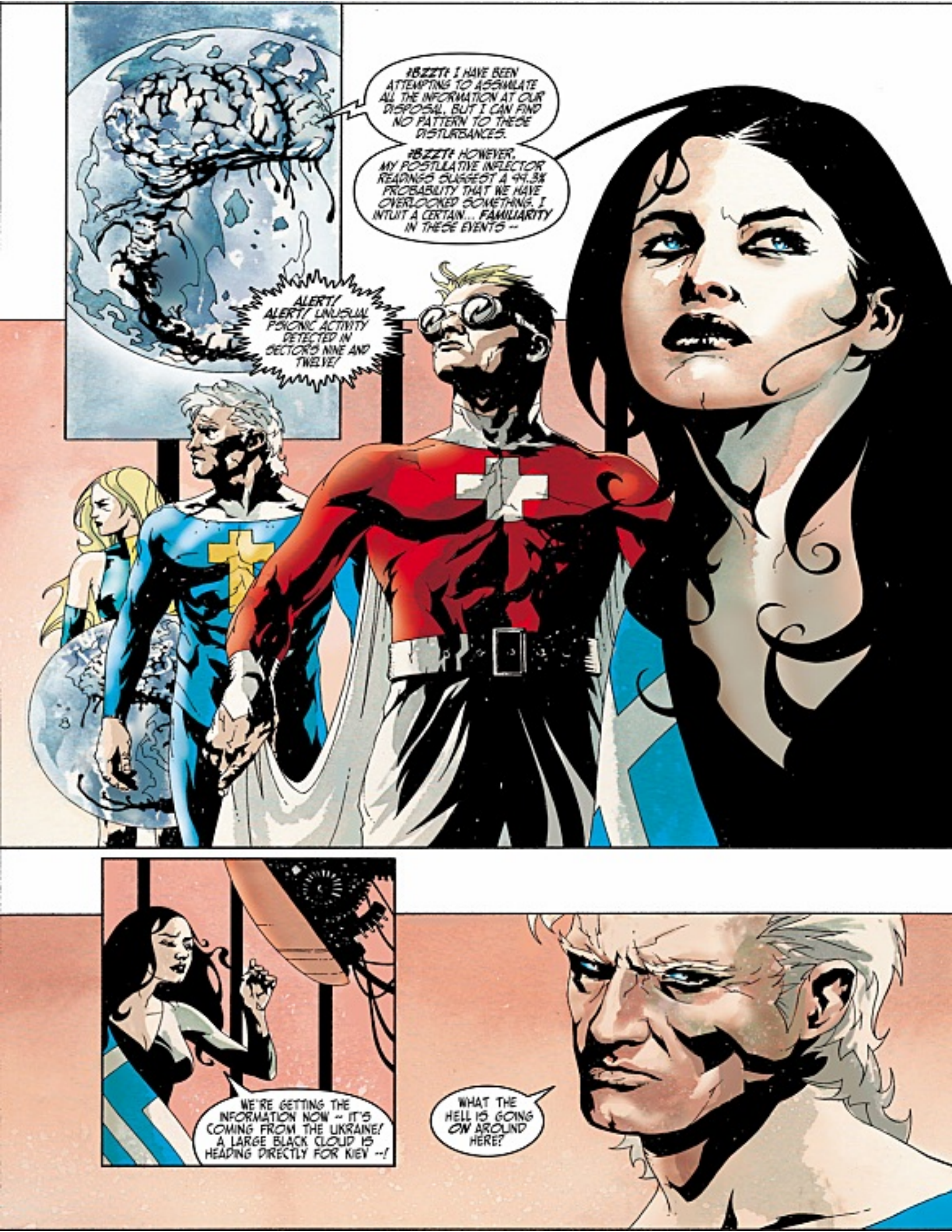
I'M CERTAIN I KNOW YOU... AND YET THE TRUTH OF YOUR IDENTITY SEEMS BEYOND MY GRASP, EVANESCENT. I SENSE THAT YOU ARE A FRIEND --
CONCENTRATE, PROFESSOR XAVIER. SEARCH INSIDE EVERY CAVITY OF YOUR SPIRITUAL BEING -- I KNOW YOU'LL FIND ME IN THERE.
SOMETHING GREATLY TROUBLES YOU... A PAST HORROR, READY TO SURFACE ONCE MORE. IT'S COLD, DARK... OHHH...
TELL ME, FRIEND -- WHAT IS THIS SHADOW CREATURE WHICH PLAGUES YOUR EVERY WAKING THOUGHT? CAN IT BE CAPABLE OF SUCH EVIL?
I CAN'T TELL YOU WHAT IT IS UNTIL YOU'RE READY TO ACCEPT WHAT IT MEANS. THAT'S WHY IT'S SO IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO REMEMBER ME, XAVIER.
I WANT TO REMEMBER YOU... BUT I FEEL AS THOUGH I AM RESTRAINED BY MY OWN SELF. A WEIGHT OF IMPOSSIBLE MAGNITUDE RESTS UPON MY MIND...
...I SHOULD NOT REMEMBER YOU. IT IS WRONG TO DO SO.


PROFESSOR? PROFESSOR XAVIER... YOU OKAY --?
OL' CHARLIE'S GOT THAT LOOK IN HIS EYE, ROGUE. CALL ME CRAZY, BUT I SENSE ANOTHER DISTURBANCE IN THE FORCE.
WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE, XAVIER? I DON'T RECOGNIZE ANY OF THEM --
THEY ARE MY CHARGES.
THESE ARE THE X-MEN? THEN, THIS NEW ARRIVAL -- THE ONE WHO FLIES -- THIS WOULD BE...
ANGEL? WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HIM...HE'S SO DIFFERENT.
MUCH HAS CHANGED SINCE YOU... SINCE YOU WENT AWAY. YES, I REMEMBER NOW... YOU WENT AWAY.
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN, SENTRY?
I DON'T KNOW.

THE VOID IS RETURNING, PROFESSOR XAVIER. DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT THAT MEANS?
THE VOID... COMING HERE -- BACK TO EARTH? HOW CAN THAT BE?
I... I CAN'T ANSWER THAT. I CAN'T FIT THE PIECES TOGETHER -- IT'S AS IF THE TRUTH OF MY EXISTENCE HAS BEEN STOLEN. THAT'S WHY WE MUST ALL TRY TO REMEMBER AS MUCH AS WE CAN...
...OUR MEMORIES MAY BE THE ONLY DEFENSE WE HAVE.
AA-UKK...!
...HHH... CANCEL THE REMAINDER OF THIS SESSION... WE HAVE VITAL PREPARATIONS TO MAKE...


S.H.E. BASE. THIS IS RED DRAGON... S.H.E. BASE. THIS IS RED DRAGON. CAN ANYONE HEAR ME?
PLEASE COME IN... THERE'S GOT TO BE SOMEONE LISTENING...
TEAM FOUR. THIS IS S.H.E. BASE -- PLEASE REPORT. TEAM FOUR. ARE YOU THERE?
WE CAN'T GET A FIX ON YOUR SIGNAL. PLEASE RESPOND. OVER.
AH-HUHH... FSHOFF IT JUST CAME OUT OF THE DARK... COULDN'T EVEN SEE THE BLOODY THING UNTIL IT WAS ON US. WE DIDN'T STAND A CHANCE... AH-HUHH... WE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW WHAT WAS HAPPENING...
THE OTHERS... THEY'RE ALL DEAD. ONE SECOND, EVERYTHING WAS FINE, AND THEN... JAVELIN AND SHAMROCK WERE GONE...
I... I DON'T EVEN WANT TO TELL YOU WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THE FLYING CARPET.
PLEASE, IF YOU CAN HEAR ME.. FOR THE LOVE OF GOD, YOU HAVE TO SEND HELP... BEFORE IT COMES BACK --
-- OH, NO! NO--!


NNNNAGGHH--!
RED DRAGON, YOUR TRANSMISSION'S BREAKING UP AGAIN. PLEASE REPEAT YOUR COORDINATES.
GARETH...?
MAGMA. WE MAY HAVE YET ANOTHER PROBLEM -- A NEW SURGE OF ACTIVITY OUTSIDE BARCELONA. ALSO, ARE COMING MANY NEWS REPORTS OF SEISMIC TREMORS OUTSIDE ATHENS.
WE HAVE NOT THE RESOURCES TO COPE WITH THESE NEW EVENTS. LISTEN TO ME, SVEN... WE MUST APPEAL TO THE AMERICANS FOR ASSISTANCE --
"THERE HAS BEEN A SUDDEN AND UNEXPECTED ECLIPSE OVER GLASGOW. CLAYMORE WAS SENT TO INVESTIGATE THIS OVER FIVE HOURS AGO. BUT WE HAVE HEARD NOTHING SINCE HE LEFT...
"...GUNNAR AND YVETTE HAVE REPORTED FINDING THE GENERAL DEAD INSIDE HIS HEADQUARTERS IN FINLAND -- THIS WAS AN APPARENT SUICIDE -- AFTER DARKNESS OVERTOOK THE CITY LAST NIGHT."
WE ARE LOSING CONTROL, SVEN. I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH MORE OF THIS WE CAN TAKE.


#BZZT# I HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTING TO ASSIMILATE ALL THE INFORMATION AT OUR DISPOSAL, BUT I CAN FIND NO PATTERN TO THESE DISTURBANCES.
#BZZT# HOWEVER, MY POSTULATIVE INFLECTOR READINGS SUGGEST A 99.3% PROBABILITY THAT WE HAVE OVERLOOKED SOMETHING. I INTUIT A CERTAIN... FAMILIARITY IN THESE EVENTS --
ALERT! ALERT! UNUSUAL PSIONIC ACTIVITY DETECTED IN SECTORS NINE AND TWELVE!
WE'RE GETTING THE INFORMATION NOW -- IT'S COMING FROM THE UKRAINE! A LARGE BLACK CLOUD IS HEADING DIRECTLY FOR KIEV --!
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON AROUND HERE?

DAILY BUGLE
HI, PETER. WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE AT THIS GODFORSAKEN HOUR?
I'M NOT REALLY SURE, ROBBIE.
SAY... CAN YOU THINK OF ANY REASON WHY VARIOUS ISSUES OF MAJOR NEWSSTAND MAGAZINES MIGHT BE MISNUMBERED? YOU KNOW... GAPS IN THE ISSUE NUMBERING...?
I'M NOT SURE I CATCH YOUR DRIFT --
WELL, TAKE CLARION MAGAZINE, FOR EXAMPLE: I'VE BEEN CHECKING THE INDICIA AND IT SOMETIMES DOESN'T RUN IN SEQUENCE. RIGHT HERE, SEE? IT SKIPS FROM #742 TO #744.
BUT NO ISSUE #743, EITHER IN PRINT OR ON FILE. IF IT'S IN HERE SOMEWHERE, I SURE CAN'T FIND IT, ROBBIE.
TH-THERE IS NO NUMBER 743. IT DOESN'T EXIST.
IT'S NOT ALLOWED TO.

"IT DOESN'T EXIST.
"IT'S NOT ALLOWED TO."
darion
darion
darion
MAN... AN HONEST TO GOODNESS SNAPSHOT OF THE SENTRY! NO ONE'S EVER BEEN ABLE TO PHOTO HIM SO CLOSE. JONAH'S GONNA PAY ME A FORTUNE FOR THIS ONE!
OMIGOD, ROBBIE -- THE SENTRY...
...I THINK I REMEMBER.

...SO I SAID TO HIM, "MICHAEL, IF YOU'RE GOING TO INVEST IN TECH STOCKS IN THIS DAY AND AGE, DON'T YOU NEED TO KNOW HOW TO TURN ON YOUR COMPUTER?"
HA HA HA!
HA HA HA!

WOULD YOU EXCUSE ME FOR A MOMENT, PLEASE, GENTLEMEN?

WHAT HAPPENED, TONY? WHY DID THEY DO IT?

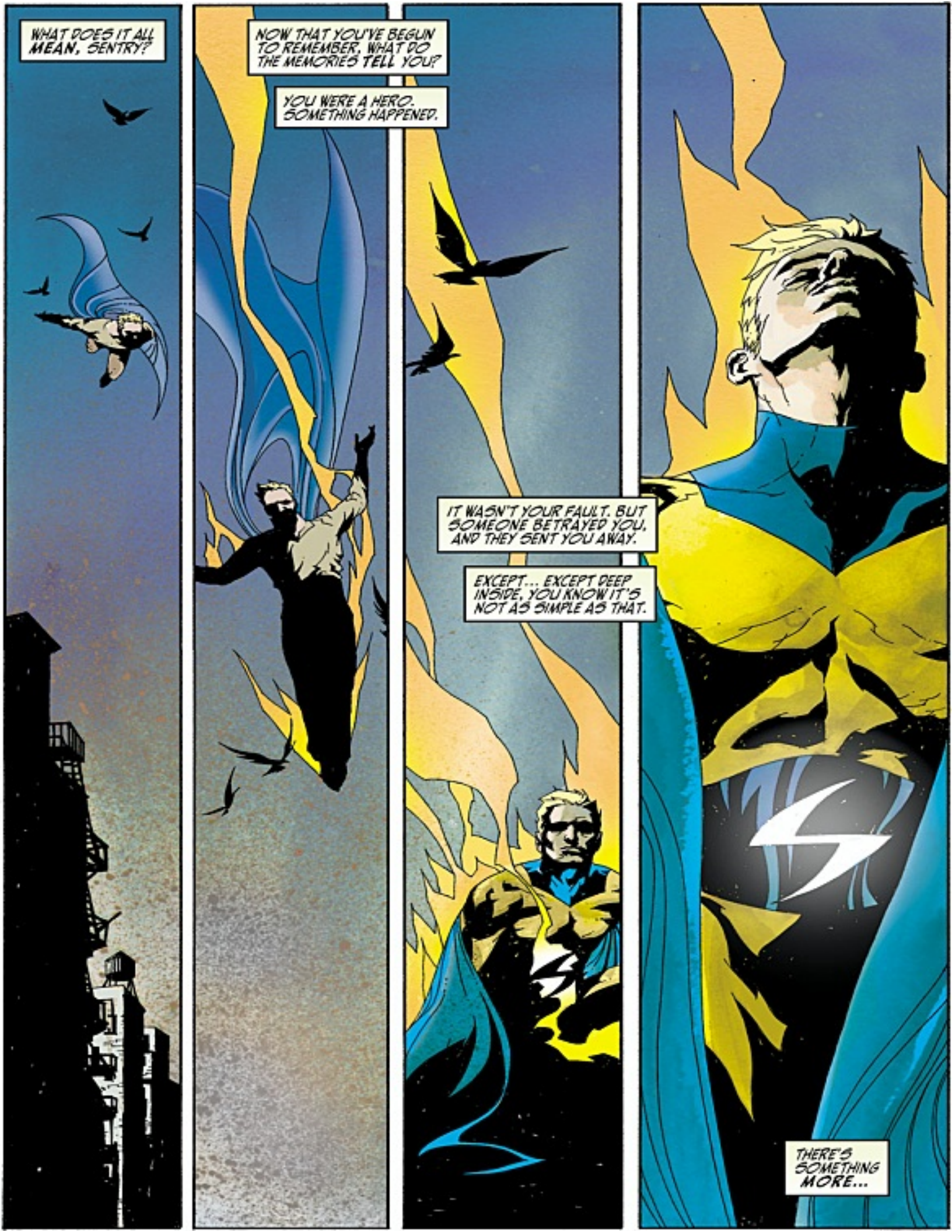
IT'S... ROB REYNOLDS, ISN'T IT?
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN WHAT SEEMS LIKE AN AGE, ROBERT. WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN HIDING YOURSELF?
I'VE REMEMBERED, TONY.
WHY? WHY ME, OF ALL PEOPLE...
I... I DON'T KNOW, ROB. IT'S SO STRANGE... I FEEL AS THOUGH SOMETHING'S HAPPENED, BUT I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO REMEMBER IT.
WHAT IS THAT, D'YOU THINK...?
IT WAS ME, TONY -- THE SENTRY! I WAS SAVING THE WORLD BEFORE ANY OF THEM HAD EVEN CONCEIVED OF THE IDEA. I TAUGHT MOST OF THEM HOW TO BE HEROES, FOR CRISSAKES!
LOOK ME IN THE EYES AND TELL ME HOW THEY COULD DO WHAT THEY DID TO ME?

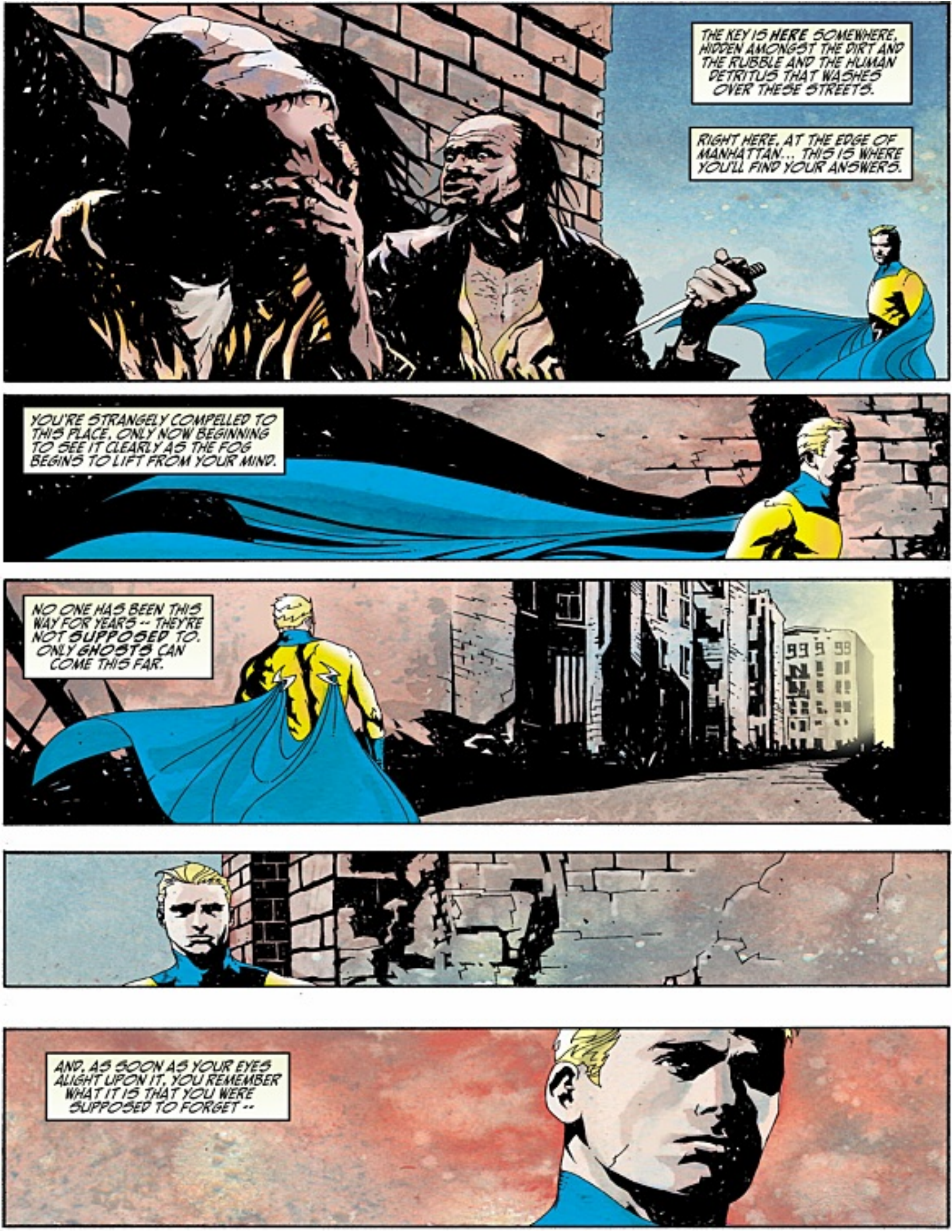
YOU WANT TO REMEMBER, SENTRY, BUT YOU CAN'T. SOMETHING HAPPENED...
...IT WAS SOMETHING VERY BAD.
SENTRY. I WILL SPEAK AS THE VOICE FOR ALL HERE. YOU KNOW WE ALL HOLD YOU IN THE HIGHEST REGARD...
...BUT IN LIGHT OF THIS GRAVE NEW REVELATION, SOMETHING MUST BE DONE. SOMEONE MUST BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE.
THIS IS RIDICULOUS! IN CASE ANY OF YOU NEED REMINDING, THIS IS THE SENTRY WE'RE TALKING ABOUT. THE MAN WHO'S PULLED YOUR RESPECTIVE CANS OUT OF THE FIRE A THOUSAND TIMES.
ARE YOU FORGETTING WHAT HE ACCOMPLISHED WITH THE HULK --?
IRON MAN... IT'S OKAY. REALLY.
I'VE BEEN DOING THIS FOR LONGER THAN ANYONE -- I OUGHT TO KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RIGHT AND WRONG BY NOW.

THE ENORMITY OF THY DEEDS ARE KNOWN TO US, SENTRY. BUT EQUALLY, THE SEVERITY OF THIS REVEALMENT DEFIES MEASURE.
HE'S RIGHT, ROBERT. YOU'VE BEEN RELYING MORE AND MORE ON THE SERUM OF LATE. CAN YOU HONESTLY SAY THAT ISN'T TRUE?
I URGE YOU TO RECONSIDER -- ALL OF YOU. THIS SITUATION CAN BE TURNED TO OUR ADVANTAGE -- I KNOW IT. THE VOID WOULDN'T DARE COME BACK TO EARTH AFTER THIS --
YOU DON'T KNOW THAT, SENTRY. NEITHER DO WE.
DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT YOU ONCE TOLD ME, ROBERT: "NOW IS A TIME FOR VIGILANCE." IT'S A TIME FOR US ALL TO LOOK INSIDE AND SEE WHAT MATTERS MOST.
COUNTERACT THE POISON. FOR THE SAKE OF MANKIND.
THEN IT'S DECIDED.
TO ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES, THE SENTRY MUST DIE.

WHO WAS IT, TONY? YOU STOOD UP FOR ME -- WHO WAS THE ONE THAT DECIDED I SHOULD BE SENT AWAY?
I HAVE TO KNOW WHO DID IT AND WHY.
IT'S NO USE, ROB... I BEGIN TO FEEL AS THOUGH I'M CLOSE, AND THEN IT'S LOST TO ME. ALL I HAVE ARE FRAGMENTS... LIKE LITTLE PIECES OF A PUZZLE.
WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF IT RIGHT NOW. I KNOW YOU WERE LOYAL TO ME, AND I'M GOING TO NEED YOUR HELP.
HE'S COMING BACK, TONY. CAN YOU PETITION THEM FOR ME, GET THEM TO UNDERSTAND?
I... THE VOID?
ROBERT... DO YOU MEAN THE VOID IS COMING BACK?
OH, GOD HELP US ALL...

SENTRY, MY CHRONOSENSORS ARE GOING OFF THE SCALE -- WAIT! WHAT ON EARTH IS THAT --?
IN AN INSTANT, A MENACING SHROUD OF JET BLACK HAS COVERED THE CITY.
ONLY THEN DOES THE SENTRY FULLY UNDERSTAND WHAT'S HAPPENED.
THE VOID HAS RETURNED!
THERE IS A CRASH -- THEN ANOTHER! FROM DOWN BELOW, THE SENTRY HEARS A SICKENING WET CRUNCH AS ONE OF THE CREATURE'S INFINI-TENTACLES HITS PAVEMENT.
A FAMILIAR VOICE CRIES OUT, AND IS IMMEDIATELY SILENCED FOREVER.
BILLY, NO!
AS THE EXPLOSION COMES, IT MERGES INTO THE ROAR OF A MILLION PEOPLE SCREAMING...
AA-AH!
OH... #AH-HECH! JESUS...
BILLY, I HEARD YOU CRY OUT. IS SOMETHING WRONG, LOVE?
NO... NO, IT'S OKAY, MOM. IT WAS NOTHING.
JUST A DREAM.


WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN, SENTRY?
NOW THAT YOU'VE BEGUN TO REMEMBER, WHAT DO THE MEMORIES TELL YOU?
YOU WERE A HERO. SOMETHING HAPPENED.
IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT. BUT SOMEONE BETRAYED YOU, AND THEY SENT YOU AWAY.
EXCEPT... EXCEPT DEEP INSIDE, YOU KNOW IT'S NOT AS SIMPLE AS THAT.
THERE'S SOMETHING MORE...


THE KEY IS HERE SOMEWHERE, HIDDEN AMONGST THE DIRT AND THE RUBBLE AND THE HUMAN DETRITUS THAT WASHES OVER THESE STREETS.
RIGHT HERE, AT THE EDGE OF MANHATTAN... THIS IS WHERE YOU'LL FIND YOUR ANSWERS.
YOU'RE STRANGELY COMPELLED TO THIS PLACE, ONLY NOW BEGINNING TO SEE IT CLEARLY AS THE FOG BEGINS TO LIFT FROM YOUR MIND.
NO ONE HAS BEEN THIS WAY FOR YEARS -- THEY'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO. ONLY GHOSTS CAN COME THIS FAR.
AND, AS SOON AS YOUR EYES ALIGHT UPON IT, YOU REMEMBER WHAT IT IS THAT YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO FORGET --

YOUR FORTRESS.
THE WATCHTOWER.